Half marathon in Mumbai

543. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that two poor girls from a remote village in Nanded, had finished fourth and fifth in Half Marathon held in Mumbai on 17 January, 2009, but were denied the cash prize of approximately Rs. 45,000/- as they could not afford buying the mandatory electronic-chip;

(b) if so, whether these winners now getting the prize money from Government, would not give fillip towards hunting out talented young girls and boys to be trained for participation in national and international games;and

(c) the steps taken for hunting out talented players?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL) (a) Government of India accorded its approval for holding the Mumbai Marathon at No cost to the Government. As per the Entry Guidelines and Regulations of the Organizers of this marathon, it was mandatory for participants themselves to avail of timing chip to be eligible for getting the prize money, as only through the chips, it could be accounted that the participant has completed the race as per rules.

(b) No, Sir. This event is not covered under the Special Award Scheme for medal winners.

(c) The Sports Authority of India has different schemes aiming at spotting talented children in sub-junior/junior/senior age groups and training them for achieving excellence at the national/international level. Apart from this, the Ministry also gives assistance to talented sportspersons for training and participation in National and international events under the Scheme relating to Talent Search and Training.

Pension to sportspersons

544. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched any pension scheme for the sportspersons who have won medals in Olympic Games, World Cup, World Championships, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, Para-Olympic Games, etc.;

(b) the details of the scheme with quantum of amount of pension prescribed for each medalist;

(c) the number of sportspersons with their fields who have so far been granted life pension under the scheme;and